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Wednesday, July 23, 2008
Volume 24
Number 21



HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

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COMMUNITY WELCOMES RCC-MORENO VALLEY PRESIDENT



Monte E. Perez, Ph.D., newly appointed president of Riverside Community College District-Moreno Valley Campus. Perez has over 30 years of higher education and accreditation experiences at the college level and U.S. Department of Education. Photo by IEHN

They all came, over two hundred elected officials, educators, community representatives and parents, to a reception held at the Moreno Valley Community Center to meet the recently appointed Riverside Community College District-Moreno Valley Campus President Monte E. Perez, Ph.D.

Numerous officials including Riverside county district supervisor, Moreno Valley city mayor, Moreno Valley board of education members, business and community groups and a parent (speaking in Spanish) welcomed Perez, extending their cooperation and support to the new

president.

Most Rev. Gerald R. Barnes, Bishop for the Diocese of Riverside and San Bernardino, gave the invocation.

Perez was unanimously appointed in a special board meeting on June 11, 2008, and assumed his duties on July 1.

He is the first Latino educator to be appointed president of the Moreno Valley Campus. At the special meeting, Mary Figueroa, community college district board president, said that Perez brings hope to a low college-going region. "Because of who you are and your experiences, you will be a role model for our young people—a living example of what education can help make possible in a person's life," she said.

Speaking before an attentive audience at the reception, Perez, 60, in a relaxed and informal manner, spoke on his background: growing up in a segregated neighborhood, graduating from Garfield High School in East Los Angeles, and experiencing the early civil rights struggles, he also was able to overcome insurmountable obstacles to achieve higher educational levels.

Speaking on future goals in his new role as president, Perez said, "I want to learn about the community of

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STATE UNVEILS NEW SYSTEM TO REPORT DROPOUT DATA

RIVERSIDE, CA —The California Department of Education on July 16, 2008 launched a new system to more accurately track dropout data using a student-level identification process that allows schools and districts to follow students who leave their schools.

"This new information being released today on student dropouts presents a challenge to all of us as educators, but it also provides an opportunity for us to use this new data to find these students and provide the resources they need to complete their high school educations," said Kenneth M. Young, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools.

Young announced that the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) is launching a new initiative this month through its Regional Learning Centers focused on bringing dropouts back to school.

"We will use the student tracking data that is part of this new drop out report to locate students who have left their home district and have not been reported enrolled in a new district," he said. "We will then make available programs for them with custom educational strategies that have been successful in helping students obtain a high school diploma or GED."

RCOE has Regional Learning Centers in Riverside, Val Verde, Banning and San Jacinto, and plans for new centers in Moreno Valley, Murrieta and Jurupa. The Centers house a variety of educational programs, including Community Schools, Alternative Education, and Special Education.

Young said there are warning signs for students who dropout as early as first grade, so there will be a new focus on preschool programs. Poor attendance is just one sign, with students averaging 124 missed days of school before they dropout. By the time some of these students reach middle school, they are already on a path that will lead them to becoming dropouts, he said. By high school, many of them have fallen so far behind that they give up and quit school.

The state's new system, the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System or CALPADS, tracks the state's student population of 6.2 million who are enrolled in public schools. Students in grades from kindergarten to 12th grade are assigned a statewide student identifier (SSID) that is unique but non-personally identifiable.

Under the new system, the one-
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ONE MILLION NEW LATINO VOTERS REGISTERED DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

Latino Voter Registration Surge in Texas and California Point to Significant Increases Nationally

More than one million net new Latinos registered to vote in the presidential primary elections, according to estimates based on new data gathered by the William C. Velasquez Institute (WCVI), a national Latino public policy and research organization.

"We normally don't see these kinds of voter registration numbers during a primary," said Antonio Gonzalez, President of WCVI. "The

intense competition on the part of the presidential primary candidates appears to have driven up Latino registration faster and in larger numbers that we normally don't see until before the general election."

The WCVI projection, compiled by WCVI Vice President Steven Ochoa, is based on data gathered from Political Data, Voter Contact Service and the Texas Legislative Council that shows a surge of more

than 500,000 net new Latino voters in California and Texas during the hotly contested presidential primary process in the first half of 2008.

Projected nationally (the two super states generally comprise 50% of all Latino voters nationwide) the California-Texas trend estimates more than 1 million net new Latino voters have been added to the rolls as of July 1, 2008.

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WAL-MART GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



Christian Turner, 33, moved to Colton when he was a freshman in High School. The day after turning 18-years old, he landed a job pushing shopping carts at his local Wal-Mart. That was 15 years ago.

Over the years, Turner, married and with a family, worked hard in the Wal-Mart employee program. Holding various training positions in other Inland Empire cities, he reached the top. He is now the manager of the Rialto Store #1862.

"I've been at the Rialto store a year, working to make a difference in this community, I've really grown fond of this city and its citizens," said Turner. "They're the best! I plan to be here a while."

At a recent event, Turner presented Rialto Mayor Grace Vargas with a check for \$1,000 to support a local nonprofit organization, the Brightest Star, Inc. The Brightest Star program

is dedicated to working with abused and abandoned children in foster care and residential treatment facilities, building their dreams and self esteem.

Mayor Vargas, a Brightest Star board member, is currently raising funds for a special Sacramento trip for seven young women who are beyond the age of the foster care system. "Wal-Mart donation presents a very joyous situation in the support of our cause. I want the girls to know that we really do care about their lives," Vargas said in receiving the donation.

Turner stated, "Wal-Mart has given over \$20,000 in donations to the Rialto community within the last year with a focus on the school district, churches, Fire and Police departments. It is truly our honor to assist the Mayor of Rialto with making a difference in the life of abused and abandoned children."

In California there are nearly 79,000 children living in foster care. These young people are in need of hope to dream for attainable goals and be able to overcome obstacles prior to entering the foster care system, according to the program's mission.

The Brightest Star Program currently provides positive mental health services to three residential treatment facilities in the Inland Empire with over 300 youth.

For further information on the Brightest Star Program go to www.thebrighteststar.org.

GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER APPOINTS JUDGE TO ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of Yvonne Gonzalez-Rogers to judge in the Alameda County Superior Court.

Gonzalez-Rogers, 43, of Piedmont, was a member and then

foreperson with the Grand Jury for Alameda County from 2005 until 2007. From 1991 to 2003, she was an associate, partner and then special counsel for Cooley Godward LLP.

Gonzalez-Rogers earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Texas, Austin School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University.

She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Carlos G. Ynostroza. Rogers is a Democrat.

The compensation for the position is \$178,789

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE INLAND EMPIRE

By Karthick Ramakrishnan

Community leaders and members are invited to a panel presentation and discussion on civic participation in the Inland Empire.

The Inland Empire is one of the fastest growing regions in the country, and is rapidly diversifying in terms of its racial and ethnic composition. Just as there is a need for investments in physical infrastructure and human capital, the development of a civic infrastructure is critical to sustain vibrant local democracy in the region.

The panel will feature perspectives from local government officials, civic organizations, and academic research conducted in the region. The aim is to initiate conversations on ways to increase civic participation and to build future partnerships for governance.

**City Hall, City of Riverside, 7th Floor Mayors Ceremonial Room,
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522
Friday, August 1, 2008 Noon to 1:30pm**

Lunch and refreshments will be served

PANELIST: Jim Erickson, The Community Foundation, serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, Rose Mayes, Fair Housing Council, Riverside, Andy Melendrez, City Council Member, Riverside, and Karthick Ramakrishnan, Associate Professor of Political Science, UC Riverside

ATTENDEES: Officials in local government (elected and appointed officials, and staff), and leaders of civic and community organizations, and concerned citizens in the Inland Empire region. *RSVP is requested by July 25, 2008 by email: dino.bozonelos@email.ucr.edu or by phone (909) 648-3039. If citizens have a particular question or issue to be addressed, include in email.*

DONORS NEEDED



Edwin Yerena is a smart, funny, and happy 7-year old. He has myeloid leukemia. He was hospitalized 17 weeks between Jan-Aug 2007 and underwent five intensive chemo treatments. As severe as the treatments and side effects were, he never lost his sense of humor and love of life.

After being in remission for a few months, he has relapsed. Because

Continue on page 3



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S.B. DEMOCRATIC LUNCHEON CLUB

San Bernardino Democratic Luncheon Club of San Bernardino meets at noon on Fridays at Democratic Headquarters, 136 Carousel Mall (near the central glass elevator-lower level). Questions regarding the Democratic Club call Nancy White at (909) 793-6229. Visitors welcomed.

Following is a schedule of speakers:

July 18 **Asher Sheppard**, Chair of Step by Step, a Redlands Community and Police Program for Parolee Reentry

July 25 **Open Discussion**

Aug 1 **Shirley Harlan**, Activist, Film: *Pete Seeger-Power of Song*

Aug 8 **Ann Casper**, Program Manager, Inland Agency HICAP

Aug 13 **Exec Board Meeting**, 2nd Wed eve at 6:30 pm at Marie Callendars 800 E Highland Ave. SB

Aug 15 **Mark Westwood**, Panel Coordinator, Prop 8 Gay Rights/Marriage Law

Aug 22 **John Futch**, Candidate, Board of Trustees, Community College

Aug 29 **Dark** for Labor Day

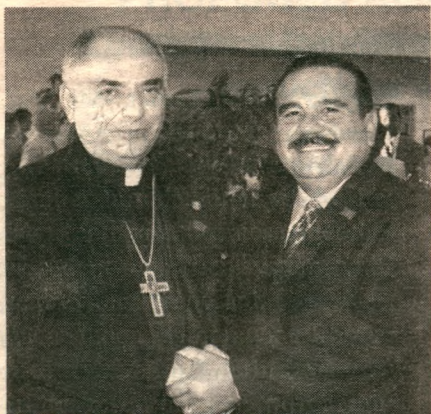
Sept 5 **Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod**, Chair, Womens Caucus

Sept 10 **Exec Board Meeting**, 2nd Wed eve at 6:30 pm at Marie Callendars 800 E Highland Ave. SB

SBDLC website: www.sbdems.com

Continued from page 1

COMMUNITY WELCOMES RCC-MORENO VALLEY PRESIDENT



Bishop Barnes, Diocese of Riverside and San Bernardino, and President Monte E. Perez posed at the reception at the Moreno Valley Community Center. Perez was greeted by the community on his appointment as president of the Moreno Valley Campus. Photo by IEHN

Moreno Valley, meet and listen to their goals and objectives, where they want to go with their higher education system. We have a good campus leadership, faculty and staff in place. My job is to build upon that success and lead the campus to the next level, working collaboratively in partnership with the whole community and our college resources in order to accomplish that feat."

Perez earned a B.A. in Social Science from Cal-State, Los Angeles, M.S. and Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Southern California. He has 30 years of higher education and accreditation experiences: vice president of Student Services at Golden West Community College in Huntington Beach, holding several education leadership

positions, including provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at the National Hispanic University in San Jose, policy fellow and later as senior policy analyst working on financial aid, workforce education, TRIO and youth employment issues for the U.S. Department of Education.

Perez and second wife, Margaret, a trustee in the Santa Monica Community College and counselor at El Camino College, are maintaining residences at both venues. His first wife of 33 years died in 2005.

In a recent publication in the Press Enterprise, Moreno Valley campus has an emphasis on two programs, public safety training with the Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center and allied health sciences in partnership with the Riverside County Regional Medical Center.

There is a demand for nursing in California and Perez said it would make sense to establish a nursing program at Moreno Valley to augment the program at Riverside City College.

Riverside County plans to hire 1,500 sheriff's deputies and correctional officers at the Ben Clark Training Center. Law enforcement instructors, certified by the state's Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST), work at the college as adjunct instructors. There is an emphasis on the importance of law



President Monte E. Perez and his wife, Margaret, enjoy the reception at the Moreno Valley Community Center. Mrs. Perez is a trustee in the Santa Monica Community College District and counselor at El Camino College. Photo by IEHN

enforcement training classes at the campus.

A major drive for the Moreno Valley Campus is the goal to obtain the status as an independent college. The test is to meet the review of an accreditation committee visiting in the fall to determine its qualifications.

And related to the drive, is the community of Moreno Valley agreeable to cooperate and accept the

financial burden for this educational venture?

This is a major challenge for Moreno Valley Campus President Monte Perez.

The reception was organized by Moreno Valley School Board Member Vicky Baca and Gilberto Esquivel, President of Mexicanos Unidos, in coordination with the City of Moreno Valley, Moreno Valley Campus and Moreno Valley School District.

Continued from page 2

DONORS NEEDED

he is an only child, a non-related bone marrow transplant is his last hope of surviving cancer. He will have to undergo another series of intense in-hospital chemo treatments until a bone marrow donor can be located. Your generous donation of blood and bone marrow could well save this wonderful child.

Blood Drive and Bone Marrow Drive

Place: Highland Family YMCA (also known as the Jerry Lewis Community Center), 7793 Central Ave, Highland, (909) 864-8296 and (909) 425-9622.

Date: Monday, July 28' 2008

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Requirements: Picture ID, at least 18 years old, and weighing 110 lbs., O.K. to donate if you have high blood pressure and diabetes (if under control)

Note: DNA is obtained through a mouth swab. DNA swab is free if you donate blood (it helps offset cost of processing tissue matching). If you only do the bone

marrow screening, there is a \$52 fee. Must be at least 18 years old.

I will be eternally grateful to those people who donate blood and/or a DNA swab! Martha Figueroa, Edwin's mom

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MOLINA HEALTHCARE OF CALIFORNIA'S SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS AWARDS CELEBRATED EVERYDAY HEROES

Inland Empire awards dinner honored 11 community leaders for their dedication and commitment to service



MHCC-2008 Inland Empire Community Champions – front row (l to r) Victoria Selby, Associate Hospital Administrator-Arrowhead Regional Medical Center; Tonie Kennedy, Event Coordinator-Inland Aids Project, SB 5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, and Lisa Rubino, MHC President-Health Plan Management. 2nd row (l to r) Ruthy Argumedo, Community Outreach Manager-MHC; Narciso Cardona, Assistant Superintendent—Student Services Division-San Bernardino City Unified School District; Dr. LeRoy Nattress, Chairman-Bi-National Health Initiative-Inland Empire; Richard Hernandez, Executive Director-Fresh Start Ministries; Shirley Johnston, Vice President-University of Advancement at Western University representing Brenda Premo; Dr. Rodney Borger, Medical Director-Department of Emergency Medicine-Arrowhead Regional Medical Center; Doug Carvalho, Director-Community Outreach-MHC; Margaret Hill, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services-San Bernardino County Superintendent Schools.

SAN BERNARDINO/ RIVERSIDE, CA - The unsung heroes who work behind the scenes to make the Inland Empire a better place were honored in May at the Second Annual Molina Healthcare of California Community Champions

Awards Dinner at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino.

Molina Healthcare of California (MHCC) Community Champions Awards was created in 2006 to recognize the everyday heroes in the communities. The program's goal is

to honor individuals and support agencies that inspire others through extraordinary service and contributions that positively affect the health, well-being and lives of those around them, and are in honor of Molina Healthcare's physician founder, Dr. C. David Molina.

Eleven everyday heroes whose behind-the-scenes dedication and extraordinary service and civic contributions to communities throughout the Inland Empire were honored during the awards dinner. Each honoree was recognized with a \$1000 grant to help further the work of their sponsoring organization and a MHCC Community Champions Award trophy, named in honor of Dr. C. David Molina.

"Molina Healthcare is proud to honor the champions who have gone above and beyond in their communities in the Inland Empire" said Lisa Rubino, president of Health Plan Management at MHCC. "The heroes honored embody a spirit of selflessness, commitment, and caring aligned with Molina Healthcare's mission of providing health care services to the underserved population."

This year's MHCC Community Champions Award recipients and their nominating sponsors: •Brenda Premo, Advocacy Award-*Western University Health Sciences*; •Ms. Becky Foreman, Civic Leader Award-*Inland Agency*; •5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, Civic Leader Award-*Youth Action Project*; •Ms. Annie Bradberry; Community Health Professional Award-*Corona-Norco*

Unified School District; •Mr. Narciso Cardona, Education Award-*San Bernardino City Unified School District, Family Resource Center*; •Mr. Richard Hernandez, Faith Based Organization Award-*Reach Out West End*; •Ms. Margaret Hill, Students & Youth Award-*Maggie's Kids Foundation*; •Inland Empire Bureau Chief Mary Parks, Healthcare Media Award-*Inland AIDS Project*; •Mr. Rodney W. Borger, MD, Healthcare Professional Award-*San Bernardino County Medical Society*; •Mr. LeRoy Wm. Nattress, Ph.D., Volunteer Award-*Latino Health Collaborative*; and •Family Health Centers, Support Group Award-*Arrowhead Regional Medical Center*

Over 225 people were in attendance with entertainment by the Colton High School Jazz Band, a drum-line performance by the Arrowhead Christian Academy, and artwork from the Inland Agency Peace Rockers.

Molina Healthcare of California MHCC is a managed care organization that provides health care services for people eligible for Medical, Medicare, AIM, and the Healthy Families product lines throughout California. MHCC has over 300,000 members and was ranked among the top 75 Medicaid plans by *U.S. News and World Reports* "America's Best Health Plans" issue in 2007. MHCC also operates 19 Medical Group facilities in California and is a subsidiary of Molina Healthcare, Inc. Information on MHCC can be obtained at www.molinahealthcare.com.

NOTICE INVITING SEALED PROPOSALS (BIDS)

PUBLIC NOTICE

THOROUGHFARE LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS-PERRIS AND CITRUS

The CITY OF PERRIS will receive sealed proposals (bids) in the City Hall, 101 North "D" Street, Perris, CA 92570, until 2:00 p.m. August 22, 2008 for the "Thoroughfare Landscape Improvements-Perris and Citrus" (Spec.#CIP S-029-5-PRS-01-07-05-08). Bid Closing date and time shall be simultaneous with the Bid Opening. The Project includes furnishing all tools, equipment, services, apparatus, facilities, transportation, labor, building/encroachment permits, disposal and materials necessary and reasonably incidental to the construction of new sidewalks, community wall, landscaped parkways, community entrance markers, and other associated public improvements within the Perris Boulevard and Citrus Avenue rights-of-way in Perris, CA in strict accordance with improvements plans and Specification No. #CIP-S-029-5-PRS-01-07-05-08. The Engineer's estimate for the project is \$340,000.00. The Contract Documents and additional information for bidders may be examined, beginning July 23, 2008, at the following locations:

Public Works Engineering Admin.
PW-Engineering Admin.
101 N. D St.
Perris, CA 92570

McGraw Hill Dodge
Attn: Plan Room
8755 Flower Road, Suite A
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Bid America
Attn: Plan Room
41085 Elm Street
Murrieta, CA 92562

So. California Builder's Exchange
Attn: Plan Room
4355 Ruffin Rd., Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92123

The successful bidder will have ninety (90) calendar days from the mandatory start of construction date September 30, 2008 to fully complete all work. Award of Contract is expected on August 26, 2008. Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the Public Works Director, 101 N. "D" Street, Perris, CA 92570. There will be a \$65.00 non-refundable payment for each set, and an additional charge of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) to cover wrapping, handling, and cost of postage for each set of Contract Documents mailed. All requests for the Contract Documents must be accompanied by check or money order. Check should be made payable to the City of Perris, herein called the "Agency".

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive any formality in the bidding. All contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Opportunity laws and regulations.

The City hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in regard to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. Moreover, the City will not discriminate against any person or firm interested in providing goods or services to the City on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, age, veterans status or handicap.

All Bidders will be required to hold their original bid prices, without change, for a period of forty-five (45) days from the date bids are opened, except to the extent relief is available pursuant to Public Contract Code, Section 5100 et. seq.

THIS PROJECT IS FEDERALLY FINANCED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (24 CFR, PART 57) AND SUBJECT TO CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING PAYMENT OF FEDERAL PREVAILING WAGES, COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 3 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REQUIREMENTS, EXECUTIVE ORDER 11246 AND OTHERS. THE AFOREMENTIONED IS DESCRIBED IN THE "SPECIAL FEDERAL PROVISIONS" SECTION OF THE BID DOCUMENT. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS IS ON FILE WITH THE CITY OF PERRIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS-ENGINEERING ADMINISTRATION DIVISION.

MINIMUM AND PREVAILING WAGES: THIS IS A FEDERAL ASSISTED PROJECT and the DAVIS-BACON FAIR-LABOR STANDARDS ACT WILL BE ENFORCED. THE APPLICABLE WAGE DETERMINATION FOR SAID PROJECT IS THE ONE PUBLISHED 10-DAYS PRIOR TO BID AWARD. WHENEVER THERE IS STATE FUNDING INVOLVED, THE HIGHEST OF THE TWO (STATE AND FEDERAL) WAGE DECISION PREVAILS.

STATE UNVEILS NEW SYSTEM TO REPORT DROPOUT DATA

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year dropout rate for the 2006-07 academic year for Riverside County was 6.1 percent, below the state average of 6.4 percent. The four-year derived dropout rate for the county was 23.7 percent, below the statewide average of 24.2 percent.

In the last reported cycle of dropout data for the county without the new student-identifier system, the one-year dropout rate for Riverside County was 3.8 percent. The four-year derived rate was 15.8 percent. Both figures were below the statewide average.

State officials, however, have warned against comparing the new dropout numbers with past statistics because they were calculated by different methods.

The new system gives exact information about why a student withdraws from school. Each student

withdrawing from a school is assigned one of 28 "withdrawal codes," indicating, for example, whether that student graduated, dropped out, withdrew, left the state or country, or completed his or her education in other ways.

Young said RCOE is working with local school districts on a variety of programs to combat the dropout rates, including programs like Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Career Technical Education, and preschool programs like Head Start. He said the support of parents through PTA and PTSA groups was vital.

"This is important work because we know that when students leave school early, it will affect almost every area of their future lives," Young said.

RTA TO HOST PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR PROPOSED ROUTE CHANGES

Low ridership prompts possible service reductions to 11 routes

RIVERSIDE - Beginning next week, the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) will host a series of public meetings to solicit community feedback on proposed changes to 11 routes.

RTA has proposed modifications to routes 3, 17, 18, 1 8A, 20, 29, 32, 33 and 206, and the discontinuation of routes 36 and 39. If approved, the proposed changes will take effect in January.

The first meeting is July 28 at the Norton Younglove Senior Center in Calimesa. The meetings will continue through August 13 in the cities of Corona, Hemet, Moreno Valley, Riverside and Temecula. A complete list of times, dates and locations is available at riversidetransit.com or by calling (800) 800-7821. Brochures are also available on board buses and at selected locations throughout the county.

"Customer feedback is important to us," said RTA Chairman Karen Spiegel. "We look forward to hearing what the public has to say about these important proposals."

In an effort to make these low-performing routes more productive, RTA has listened to community feedback, enhanced advertising, and made various route adjustments in recent years. Despite those efforts, these routes continue to underperform.

The Riverside Transit Agency provides public transportation for Western Riverside County, operating 39 fixed routes, 7 commuter routes and 15 demand response services. RTA's service area spans 2,500 square miles, the second-largest in the nation. For bus route and schedule information contact RTA at (800) 800-7821 or log on to our Web site at www.RiversideTransit.com.

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HANDS-FREE AT LAST

(NAPS)—Highway safety has taken a turn for the better. A new law makes California a hands-free state. Police have begun ticketing drivers as of July 1st for using a handheld cell phone. The fine is \$20 for the first ticket and \$50 for subsequent violations. The law SB1613 provides exemptions for emergency calls.

Convictions for violating the law will appear on a person's driving record but will not count as a point against it, according to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The restrictions do not apply to vehicle passengers.

Safety experts hope that what is happening in California and other states will continue nationwide.

It is expected that phones with a detachable Bluetooth wireless headset, such as the LG Decoy (VX8610) available through Verizon wireless, will become more popular. Motorists can also buy a headset by itself to pair with their current phone, provided it is Bluetooth capable, such as the LG HBM-760, or they can purchase the entire combination offered by Decoy.

How It Works

Motorists who are adding a new

headset to a device they already have should place the headset into pairing mode (referring to an owner's manual as needed). Open the Bluetooth menu on the handset, turn Bluetooth on and highlight "Add New" or "Search New Device." Click "OK" and the phone will search for Bluetooth devices.

Your Phone Will Recognize the Headset

After a couple of seconds your phone should recognize the headset. Note: If there are other Bluetooth devices around you, the handset may discover all of them. Make sure you know the model number of the Bluetooth headset you are using.

Once the handset discovers your headset, highlight it and click "OK," "Add to Trusted" or "Add" (depending on carrier). The handset will ask for a passcode (usually 0000); input code and click "OK." When asked to connect to the headset, click "Yes." You are now connected. Most Bluetooth headsets on the market today will automatically connect the next time you use the phone and headset together.

To learn more about the new law, visit www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/index.htm.

NOTICE INVITING SEALED PROPOSALS (BIDS)

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMUNITY PARKS IMPROVEMENTS COPPER CREEK AND SOUTH D STREET

The CITY OF PERRIS will receive sealed proposals (bids) in the City Hall, 101 North "D" Street, Perris, CA 92570, until 2:30 p.m. August 22, 2008 for the "Community Parks Improvements Copper Creek and South D Street (Spec. # 5-PRS-03-07)." Bid Closing date and time shall be simultaneous with the Bid Opening. The Project includes furnish all tools, equipment, services, apparatus, facilities, transportation, labor, Building encroachment permits, disposal and materials necessary and reasonably incidental to the installation of new park equipment, including benches, picnic tables, barbeques, trash receptacles and other associated public improvements at Copper Creek Park located at 217 Citrus Avenue, and South D Street Park located south of south east corner of D and 8th Streets in Perris, CA in strict accordance with improvements plans and Specification No. #CIP 5-PRS-03-07. The Contract Documents and additional information for bidders may be examined, beginning July 23, 2008, at the following locations:

Public Works Engineering Admin.
PW-Engineering Admin.
101 N. D St.
Perris, CA 92570
Ph. (951) 956-2120

McGraw Hill Dodge
Attn: Plan Room
8755 Flower Road, Suite A
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Bid America
Attn: Plan Room
41085 Elm Street
Murrieta, CA 92562

So. California Builder's Exchange
Attn: Plan Room
4355 Ruffin Rd., Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92123

The successful bidder will have ninety (90) calendar days from the mandatory start of construction date September 30, 2008 to fully complete all work. Award of Contract is expected on August 26, 2008. Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the Public Works Director, 101 N. "D" Street, Perris, CA 92570. There will be a \$25.00 non-refundable payment for each set, and an additional charge of fifteen dollars (\$10.00) to cover wrapping, handling, and cost of postage for each set of Contract Documents mailed. All requests for the Contract Documents must be accompanied by check or money order. Check should be made payable to the City of Perris, herein called the "Agency".

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive any formality in the bidding. All contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Opportunity laws and regulations.

The City hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in regard to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. Moreover, the City will not discriminate against any person or firm interested in providing goods or services to the City on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, age, veterans status or handicap.

All Bidders will be required to hold their original bid prices, without change, for a period of forty-five (45) days from the date bids are opened, except to the extent relief is available pursuant to Public Contract Code, Section 5100 et. seq.

THIS PROJECT IS FEDERALLY FINANCED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (24 CFR, PART 57) AND SUBJECT TO CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING PAYMENT OF FEDERAL PREVAILING WAGES, COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 3 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REQUIREMENTS, EXECUTIVE ORDER 11246 AND OTHERS. THE FOREMENTIONED IS DESCRIBED IN THE "SPECIAL FEDERAL PROVISIONS" SECTION OF THE BID DOCUMENT. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS IS ON FILE WITH THE CITY OF PERRIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS-ENGINEERING ADMINISTRATION DIVISION.

MINIMUM AND PREVAILING WAGES: THIS IS A FEDERAL ASSISTED PROJECT and the DAVIS-BACON FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT WILL BE ENFORCED. The APPLICABLE WAGE DETERMINATION FOR SAID PROJECT IS THE ONE PUBLISHED 10-DAYS PRIOR TO BID AWARD. WHENEVER THERE IS STATE FUNDING INVOLVED, THE HIGHEST OF THE TWO (STATE AND FEDERAL) WAGE DECISION PREVAILS.

NEW STATE SYSTEM FOR DROPOUT DATA ANNOUNCED

Editor's note: an article in this publication, "State Unveils New System To Report Dropout Data" depicts the announcement of the new state dropout system. The following article is an edited article reflecting dropout data for San Bernardino County, and avoids duplicate reporting of the state announcement.

SAN BERNARDINO CA - The California Department of Education unveiled its new system to track dropout data, the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System or CALPADS.

"This is an historic day," said Herbert Fischer, superintendent of San Bernardino County schools. "This will be an important tool for schools, districts and the state to utilize exactly what happens to students who leave our public schools."

Under the new system, the one-year dropout rate for the 2006-07 academic year for San Bernardino County was 8.1 percent, slightly above the state average of 6.4 percent. The four-year derived dropout rate for the county was 29.9 percent, compared to 24.2 percent statewide.

"The new data collection system provides a clearer picture of exactly what happens to students when they leave their school and allow us to better target resources and interventions to keep students in school for graduation," he said.

In the last reported cycle of

dropout data for the county without the new student-identifier system, the one-year dropout rate in 2005-06 was 5.1 percent. The four-year derived rate was 19.7.

Fischer noted that it would be wrong to compare the rates under the new student-identifier system with those previously reported.

Each student withdrawing from a school is assigned one of 28 "withdrawal codes," indicating whether that student graduated, dropped out, withdrew, left the state or country, or completed his or her education in other ways.

According to county data, there were 167,133 instances of students transferring from one public school to another in 2006-07 with a countywide enrollment of 427,583 students. "Even with the possibility of multiple moves by a single student, that amount of mobility among our students presents challenges to educate our children," Fischer said.

Demographically, the countywide achievement gap is smaller among ethnic subgroups than the statewide gap. Countywide, the one-year dropout rates for ethnic subgroups are 4.1 percent for White students, 5.8 percent for Hispanic students and 6.6 percent for African American students.

Statewide, the dropout averages are 2.8 percent for White students, 5.4 percent for Hispanic students and 7.8

for African American students.

"The achievement gap is being addressed by our countywide P-16 councils."

In addition, programs like Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), the Alliance for Education and Smaller Learning Communities have been implemented to provide students with educational opportunities to keep them engaged at the secondary level.

The new dropout data should serve

as a wakeup call, not only in schools, but throughout our communities, Fischer said.

"We don't want to have any student drop out of school, and the number of dropouts we have in the county is unacceptable," Fischer said. "Unless our schools, in partnership with families and our communities, do a better job in graduating students, our region will suffer dire economic consequences of an undereducated workforce."

NEWS RELEASE AND PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

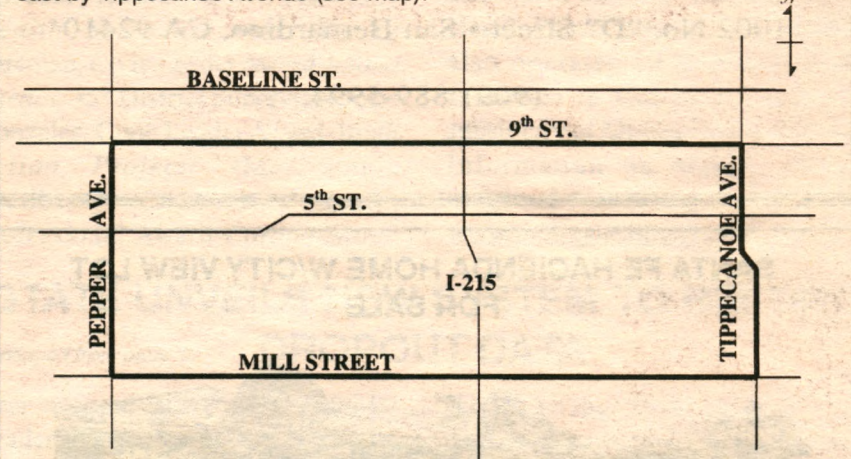
CITY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AWARDED \$400,000 EPA BROWNFIELDS GRANT

Esta información en español esta localizada: www.sbrdaprojects.org/Brownfields o llamar Christine Hurtado (909) 663-1044

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA, July 9, 2008. The City of San Bernardino Economic Development Agency ("EDA") has been awarded \$400,000 in grant funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to develop an inventory of potential and actual Brownfields sites contaminated by hazardous substances and/or petroleum, to conduct environmental site assessments, and to support community outreach activities.

A Brownfields site is defined as an abandoned, idle, or under-used industrial or commercial facility where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. The goal of the EPA grant is to identify and address environmental contamination issues so that Brownfields properties can be readied for reuse and redevelopment. For the property to be eligible for remediation grant funding, there can be no financially viable responsible party connected to the Brownfields site.

EDA is currently soliciting sites to include in this grant funded program, and is accepting **public comments and site nominations** for Brownfields sites within the grant's pre-defined study area of the City of San Bernardino until **4:00 p.m., Friday, September 12, 2008**. The study area of the City is bounded on the north by 9th Street, on the west by Pepper Street, on the south by Mill Street, and on the east by Tippecanoe Avenue (see map).



A public meeting to present the work plan and receive public comments and site nominations is scheduled for **Monday, July 28, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** in the EDA Board Room.

Public Meeting:

Date: Monday, July 28, 2008

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: City of San Bernardino Economic Development Agency Board Room
201 North "E" Street, Suite 301
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Another way to comment on the grant work plan and/or to nominate potential Brownfields sites is to contact Kathleen Robles, Project Manager at:

City of San Bernardino Economic Development Agency
201 North "E" Street, Suite 301
San Bernardino, CA 92401
Email: krobles@sbrda.org
Phone: (909) 663-1044
Fax: (909) 888-9413
www.sbrdaprojects.org/Brownfields

Comments/nominations are to be received by 4:00 p.m., Friday, September 12, 2008.

ONE MILLION NEW LATINO VOTERS REGISTERED DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

Continued from page 1

Latino Voter Registration Surge in Texas and California Point to Significant Increases Nationally

	California	Texas	Total
2004	2,778,551	2,274,125	5,052,676
2006	2,763,975	2,345,265	5,109,240
Number ch	-14,576	71,140	56,564
Diff 04-06	-0.50%	3.10%	1.10%
7/1/08	2,987,275	2,660,628	5,647,903
Number Ch	223,300	315,363	538,663
Diff in % since 2006	8.10%	13.40%	10.50%

Estimated Growth in National LVR since 2006 - 1,077,326
Current National LVR Estimate - 10,400,000

Following virtually no growth in Latino voter registration during 2005-06, Ochoa's analysis found that 538,663 Latinos in California and Texas registered to vote between 2007 and early 2008.

Based on hotly contested primaries in Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York, New Jersey and Florida, Ochoa estimates that 1.077 million new net Latino voters have already been added to the roles nationally, for an estimated national total of 10.4 million Latino voters.

BACA VOTES TO OVERRIDE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS BILL

Veto Would Deny Access to Medicare Services for Millions of Seniors and People With Disabilities

WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Joe Baca (D-Rialto) joined a strong bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives in overriding the President's veto of H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act. The motion to override the President's veto gained the two-thirds majority needed, and passed the House of Representatives with a 383 - 41 vote.

H.R. 6331 ensures Medicare beneficiaries will continue to receive necessary care by eliminating the pending 10 percent payment reduction for physicians in Medicare, enhancing Medicare preventive and mental health benefits, improving and extending programs for low-income Medicare beneficiaries, and extending expiring provisions for rural and other providers.

"By overriding the President's misguided veto, the House of Representatives has scored an important victory for America's seniors and working families," said Congressman Baca. "This bill is essential in protecting

Medicare beneficiaries' access to the healthcare they need. By eliminating cuts in physician payments and promoting financial incentives to providers, H.R. 6331 stabilizes the Medicare system and helps to ensure it continues to work for future generations."

H.R. 6331 also makes vital Medicare improvements for America's low-income beneficiaries. The legislation extends and improves low-income assistance programs for Medicare beneficiaries whose income is below \$14,000. In addition, the legislation postpones two Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services' rule changes that could possibly hinder Medicare beneficiaries' ability to receive life-saving pharmaceutical and medical supply services.

"The price of gas and food has skyrocketed and at the same time unemployment and foreclosures are up. Our struggling families in California deserve a helping hand," added Rep. Baca. "By overriding the President's veto,

we are working to ensure that even in these tough economic times, our hard-working families still have access to the medicines and care they need to stay healthy.

"I urge my colleagues in the

Senate to take swift action and join us in overriding the President's veto," concluded Rep. Baca. "Every American, not just the wealthy few, deserves access to quality health care."

LANZAMIENTO DE LAS NOTICIAS Y AVISO DE LA REUNIÓN DEL PÚBLICO

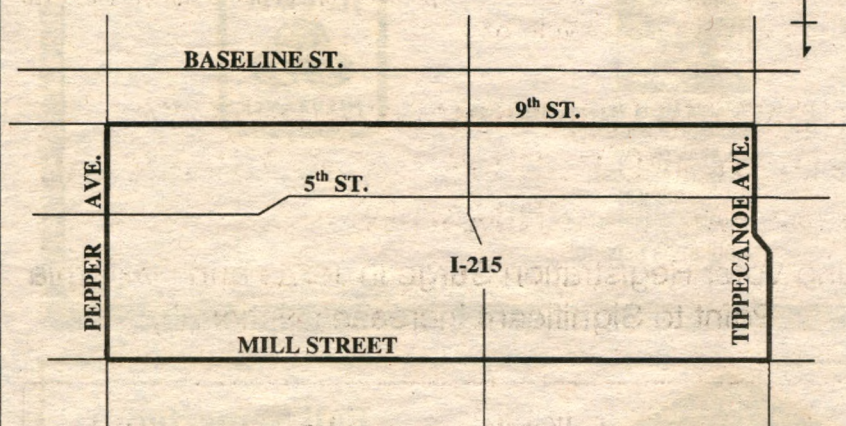
AGENCIA DEL DESARROLLO ECONÓMICO DE LA CIUDAD DE SAN
BERNARDINO CONCEDIDO
\$400.000 CONCESIÓN DE EPA BROWNFIELDS

Esta información en español esta localizada: www.sbrdaprojects.org/
Brownfields o llamar
Christine Hurtado (909) 663-1044

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA, Julio 9, 2008. Agencia de Desarrollo Económico de la Ciudad de San Bernardino ("EDA") se ha concedido \$400,000 en la concesión que financiaba de la Agencia de protección del medio ambiente de Estados Unidos (EPA) para Desarrollar un inventario de potencial y los sitios reales de Brownfields contaminados por las sustancias y/o el petróleo peligrosos, para conducir gravámenes ambientales del sitio, y para apoyar a comunidad exceden actividades.

Un sitio de Brownfields se define como haber abandonado, una marcha lenta, o facilidad industrial o comercial donde la extensión o el reconstrucción es complicada por verdadero o percibido contaminación del medio ambiente. La meta de la concesión de EPA es identificar y tratar ediciones de la contaminación del medio ambiente para poder alistar las características de Brownfields para la reutilización y el reconstrucción. Para que la característica sea elegible para la concesión de la remediación que financia, allí no puede ser ningún partido responsable financieramente viable conectado con el sitio de Brownfields.

EDA está solicitando actualmente sitios para incluir en este programa financiado concesión, y los está aceptando **nombramientos públicos del comentario y del sitio** para los sitios de Brownfields dentro del área predefinida del estudio de la concesión de la ciudad hasta **4:00 p.m., Viernes 12 de Septiembre de 2008.** El área del estudio de la Ciudad de San Bernardino es limitada en el norte por Calle 9th, en el oeste de Pepper Street, en el sur de Mill Street, y en el este de Tippecanoe Avenue (véase el mapa).



Reunion pública para presentar el plan de trabajo y recibir nombramientos públicos del comentario y del sitio **programar para el Lunes 28 de Julio de 2008 de 6:00 p.m. a 7:30 p.m.** en el Cuarto de Tablero de la Agencia del Desarrollo Económico.

Reunión Pública:

Fecha: Lunes 28 de Julio de 2008

Tiempo: 6:00 p.m. a 7:30 p.m.

Donde: Agencia de Desarrollo Económico de la Ciudad de San Bernardino
Sitio de tablero de EDA - (EDA Board Room)
201 North E Street, Habitación 30, San Bernardino, CA 92401

Otra manera de comentar respecto al plan de trabajo de la concesión y/o de nominar los sitios potenciales de Brownfields es entrar en contacto con **Kathleen Robles, Encargada de Proyecto en:**

Agencia de Desarrollo Económico de la Ciudad de San Bernardino
201 North "E" Street, Habitación 301
San Bernardino, CA 92401
Email: krobles@sbrda.org
Teléfono: (909) 663-1044
Fax: (909) 888-9413
www.sbrdaprojects.org/Brownfields

Los comentarios/los nombramientos deben ser recibidos por 4:00 p.m., Viernes 12 de Septiembre de 2008.

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0201-1051-ff.psd 07/08

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777 N. F St., San Bernardino
(909) 381-1234
sbcusd.com AAE/EOE/HDGP

NATIONAL LATINA BUSINESS WOMEN ASSOCIATION SCHEDULES MEETINGS

The National Latina Business Women Association will be
hosting its second networking breakfast on
Thursday, July 24, 2008, at Carrows Restaurant,
11669 Foothill Blvd.,
Rancho Cucamonga, at 7:30 a.m. Cost: \$15.
Future networking meetings: August 21, 2008,
September 25, 2008, October 23, 2008,
December 11, 2008. RSVP via
e-mail: cardenas@inssvcs.com or (909) 238-5516

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\$34.62-\$44.25/hr
Security Technician II
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\$2,527.20-\$3,232.67/mo
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Nutritionist
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Trainee & I
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